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Aruba's English news leader and ultimate guide to paradise

Biden aims to nudge Japan and South Korea toward greater unity

By AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden aims to further tighten security and economic ties between Japan and South Korea, two nations that have struggled to stay on speaking terms, as he welcomes their leaders to the rustic Camp David presidential retreat Friday. Historically frosty relations between South Korea and Japan have rapidly thawed over the last year as they share concerns about China's assertiveness in the Pacific and North Korea's persistent nuclear threats. Biden is now looking to use the summit in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains to urge South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to turn the page on their countries' difficult shared history.

Continued on Page 2



Protesters shout slogans during a rally in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023, ahead of a trilateral summit between the U.S. President Joe Biden, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at Camp David in Maryland. The letters read, "Refuse, Camp David Principles."

Associated Press

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Biden aims to nudge Japan and South Korea toward greater unity



President Joe Biden, center, meets with South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol, left, and Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, right, during the NATO summit in Madrid, Wednesday, June 29, 2022.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

The Japan-South Korea relationship is a delicate one because of differing views of World War II history and Japan's colonial rule over the Korean Peninsula. Past efforts to tighten security cooperation between Seoul and Tokyo have progressed with fits and starts. But the White House hopes the current rapprochement offers an opportunity for a historic shift in the relationship.

"What we have seen over the course of last couple of months is a breathtaking kind of diplomacy that has been led by courageous leaders in both Japan and South Korea," said Kurt Campbell, Biden's top Indo-Pacific adviser said at an event at the Brookings Institution in Washington on Wednesday. "They have sometimes, against the advice of their own counselors and staff, taken steps that elevate the Japan, South Korean relationship into a new plane."

Biden administration officials say the leaders will announce in their summit communique a series of joint efforts that aim to institutionalize cooperation

among the three countries as they face an increasingly complicated Pacific.

The expected major announcements include plans to expand military cooperation on ballistic defenses and make the summit an annual event. The leaders are also expected to detail in the communique plans to invest in technology for a three-way crisis hotline and offer an update on the progress the countries have made in sharing early-warning data on missile launches.

In picking Camp David, where presidents over 80 years have hosted historic peace summits and intimate leader-to-leader talks, Biden is looking to demonstrate the importance of relations with South Korea and Japan.

His administration says it remains determined to place greater foreign policy focus on the Pacific even as the U.S. grapples with the fallout of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Earlier this year, Biden honored Yoon with a state visit and picked Kishida's predecessor, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, for the first face-to-face visit of his presidency.

The retreat was where Pres-

ident Jimmy Carter brought together Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin in September 1978 for talks that established a framework for a historic peace treaty between Israel and Egypt in March 1979. In the midst of World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at the retreat — then known as Shangri-La — to plan the Italian campaign that would knock Benito Mussolini out of the war.

Biden frequently visits Camp David with family, but Friday's summit will be the first time he has used the retreat to host international leaders.

Kishida before departing Tokyo for Washington on Thursday called the summit a "historic occasion to bolster trilateral strategic cooperation based on our stronger-than-ever bilateral relations with the United States and South Korea."

The relationship mending has come with a significant measure of political risk for Yoon as bitterness in his country over Japan's colonial rule from 1910 to 1945 lingers. Polls show a majority of South Koreans

oppose Yoon's handling of the forced labor issue with Japan.

Biden is expected to impress on Yoon and Kishida that the U.S., Japan and South Korea are at a crucial moment and need to stay on the same page.

"I think it's fair to say that a few months ago both President Yoon and Prime Minister Kishida might have been a bit uncomfortable with the prospect of a meeting at Camp David," said Christopher Johnstone, a senior adviser and Japan chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"Both would have been hesitant to endorse any implication that somehow the U.S. was brokering an improvement in Japan-ROK ties," he said, referring to the Republic of Korea. "But we're in a very different stage now."

Kishida and Yoon came to office months apart in late 2021 and early 2022 as their countries' relationship was in one of the roughest periods since the two countries officially normalized relations in 1965.

Japan suspended South Korea's preferred trade status in 2019 in apparent

retaliation for South Korean court rulings in 2018 that ordered Japanese companies to compensate Korean workers for abusive treatment and forced labor during World War II, when the Korean Peninsula was under Japanese occupation.

Japan also tightened export controls on key chemicals used by South Korean companies to make semiconductors, prompting South Korea to file a complaint with the World Trade Organization and remove Japan from its own list of countries with preferred trade status.

The ties have improved significantly in recent months. Yoon proposed an initiative in March to resolve disputes stemming from compensation for wartime Korean forced laborers. He announced that South Korea would use its own funds to compensate Koreans enslaved by Japanese companies before the end of World War II.

Yoon also traveled to Tokyo in March for talks with Kishida, the first such visit in more than 12 years. Kishida reciprocated with a visit to Seoul in May and expressed sympathy for the suffering of Korean forced laborers during Japan's colonial rule.

"The world is changing rapidly, and I think this is apparent to both the Japanese and South Koreans," said Sheila Smith, a senior fellow for Asia-Pacific studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Yoon in remarks this week to mark the 78th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japan's colonial rule said the summit "will set a new milestone in trilateral cooperation." He also made plain that improved ties with Japan was crucial for regional stability.

"As partners that cooperate on security and the economy, South Korea and Japan will be able to jointly contribute to peace and prosperity across the globe while collaborating and exchanging in a future-oriented manner," Yoon said. □

Pentagon review calls for reforms to reverse spike in sexual misconduct at military academies

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military academies must improve their leadership, stop toxic practices such as hazing and shift behavior training into the classrooms, according to a Pentagon study aimed at addressing an alarming spike in sexual assaults and misconduct.

U.S. officials said the academies must train student leaders better to help their classmates, and upend what has been a disconnect between what the cadets and midshipmen are learning in school and the often negative and unpunished behavior they see by those mentors. The review calls for additional senior officers and enlisted leaders to work with students at the Army, Navy and Air Force academies and provide the expanded training. The report, which was released Thursday, says that too often discussions about stress relief, misconduct, social media and other life issues take place after hours or on the weekends. The report recommends that those topics be addressed in classes and graded, to promote their importance.



The Pentagon is seen in this aerial view in Washington, Jan. 26, 2020.

Associated Press

The study comes on the heels of a report this year that showed a sharp spike in reported sexual assaults at the academies during the 2021-22 school year. It said that one in five female students said in an anonymous survey that they had experienced unwanted sexual contact. The survey results were the highest since the Defense Department began collecting that data many years ago. Student-reported assaults at the academies jumped

18% overall compared with the previous year, fueled in part by the Navy, which had nearly double the number in 2022, compared with 2021. The anonymous survey accompanying the report found increases in all types of unwanted sexual contact from touching to rape at all the schools. And it cited alcohol as a key factor.

In response to the spike in assaults, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered on-site evaluations at the U.S. Na-

val Academy in Maryland, the Air Force Academy in Colorado and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York, to explore the issues and identify solutions. The new report, expected to be released Thursday, makes several immediate and longer-term recommendations to improve assault and harassment prevention and eliminate toxic climates that fuel the problems. Austin is ordering quick implementation of the changes.

In a memo, Austin acknowledges that the academies "have far more work to do to halt sexual assault and harassment." He says the increase in assaults and harassment "is disturbing and unacceptable. It endangers our teammates and degrades our readiness." Elizabeth Foster, executive director of the Pentagon's force resiliency office, told reporters Thursday that the study will set up ways to measure whether the changes are working. But she cautioned that "not only are they going to take time to implement, but cultural change does take time." Foster and Andra Tharp, the senior prevention adviser for the force resiliency office, said that while the academies offer a lot of strong programs, toxic and unhealthy command climates make them less effective. When cadets and midshipmen learn one thing about leadership or prevention in the classroom, but they don't see it reinforced in other settings, it sends mixed messages about what to expect, about how to be treated and how to treat others. Such mixed messages, they said, create cynicism and distrust. □

Authorities investigating threats to grand jurors who indicted Trump in Georgia

By RUSS BYNUM

Associated Press

Authorities in Georgia said Thursday they're investigating threats targeting members of the grand jury that indicted former President Donald Trump and 18 of his allies. Fulton County Sheriff Pat Labat's office said investigators are working to trace the origin of the threats after the names of grand jury members and other personal information were posted online. The sheriff's office said other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies were assisting. "We take this matter very

seriously and are coordinating with our law enforcement partners to respond quickly to any credible threat and to ensure the safety of those individuals who carried out their civic duty," the sheriff's office said in a statement. A Fulton County grand jury returned a 41-count indictment Monday charging Trump and 18 others with illegally conspiring to overturn his 2020 election loss in Georgia.

Though the grand jury proceedings were secret, the unredacted names of the grand jury members were included in the indictment.

That's standard practice in Georgia, in part because it gives criminal defendants a chance to challenge the composition of the grand jury. The indictment itself is a public record.

The American Bar Association condemned any threats as well as the sharing of other personal information about the grand jurors online.

"The civic-minded members of the Georgia grand jury performed their duty to support our democracy," the association's statement said. "It is unconscionable that their lives should be upended and safety



Barricades are seen near the Fulton County courthouse, Monday, Aug. 7, 2023, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

threatened for being good citizens."

Amid a rise in violent rhetoric directed toward public officials, the Georgia grand

jurors aren't the only ones to face threats over their involvement in the four pending criminal cases against Trump. □

Oil worker health care fund is sought by New Mexico congressman in swing district

By **MORGAN LEE**
Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — U.S. oil field workers and their immediate relatives would be compensated for uninjured medical costs related to air pollution and heat-related illness, under a bill introduced by a first-term Democratic congressman from New Mexico.

U.S. Rep. Gabe Vasquez said Wednesday his bill would require oil and natural gas companies to pay into a trust that provides reimbursement to workers for health costs associated with ailments linked to methane and smog, including respiratory problems such as asthma.

Workers would be eligible to seek reimbursement for costs not covered by private insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, he said. Eligibility for specific medical conditions would be determined under federal la-

bor and workplace safety guidelines.

Vasquez said the proposal is an outgrowth of concerns he has heard from oil field workers in southeastern New Mexico — and his observations about extensive profits and executive compensation among major petroleum companies. New Mexico is the nation's second-largest oil producer behind Texas.

"If you're an energy worker in Hobbs or Carlsbad who has a child who has asthma, you would benefit from this legislation," Vasquez said.

Annual contributions to a health care trust for oil workers would be required of energy companies with annual revenues over \$50 million. Those companies would have to pay into the fund the same amount of money as they pay their 10 highest-paid employees, including bonuses and de-



Rep. Gabe Vasquez, D-N.M., speaks during a news conference to announce the bipartisan Southwest Caucus, Thursday, June 15, 2023, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

ferred compensation. The bill has little chance of passing in the GOP-controlled House, where

Republicans this year approved a package that would sharply increase domestic production of fossil

fuels and ease permitting restrictions that delay pipelines, refineries and other projects.

The initiative still marks a shift in focus from an unfettered support of the oil industry under Vasquez's Republican predecessor, Yvette Herrell, and her criticism of energy policies under the Biden administration that she said hindered production of oil and other fossil fuels. The bill from Vasquez includes compensation for heat-related illness in the workplace — an area of increasing concern as the energy sector and other industries contend with record-breaking temperatures this summer. President Joe Biden in July announced new steps aimed to protect workers, including hazard alerts for extreme heat, improved forecasting and better access to drinking water on the job. □

Canadian woman sentenced to nearly 22 years for 2020 ricin letter sent to Trump in White House

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Canadian woman was sentenced to nearly 22 years in prison in Washington Thursday in the mailing of a threatening letter containing the poison ricin to then-President Donald Trump at the White House.

Pascale Ferrier, 56, had pleaded guilty to violating biological weapons prohibitions in letters sent to Trump and to police officials in Texas, where she had been jailed for several weeks in 2019.

Her defense attorney Eugene Ohm said Ferrier has no criminal record prior to

that and is an "inordinately intelligent" French immigrant who had earned a master's degree in engineering and raised two children as a single parent. But in September 2020, prosecutors said Ferrier made the ricin at home in Quebec and mailed the potentially deadly poison derived from processing castor beans to Trump with a letter that referred to him as "The Ugly Tyrant Clown" and read in part: "If it doesn't work, I'll find better recipe for another poison, or I might use my gun when I'll be able to come. Enjoy! FREE REBEL SPIRIT."

The letter from Pascale Ferrier, which also told Trump "give up and remove your application for this election," was intercepted at a mail sorting facility in September 2020, before it could reach the White House.

She was arrested trying to enter a border crossing in

Buffalo, New York, carrying a gun, a knife and hundreds of rounds of ammunition, authorities said. Investigators also found eight similar letters to law enforcement officials in charge of a Texas jail where she was held after she refused to leave a park area as it closed.

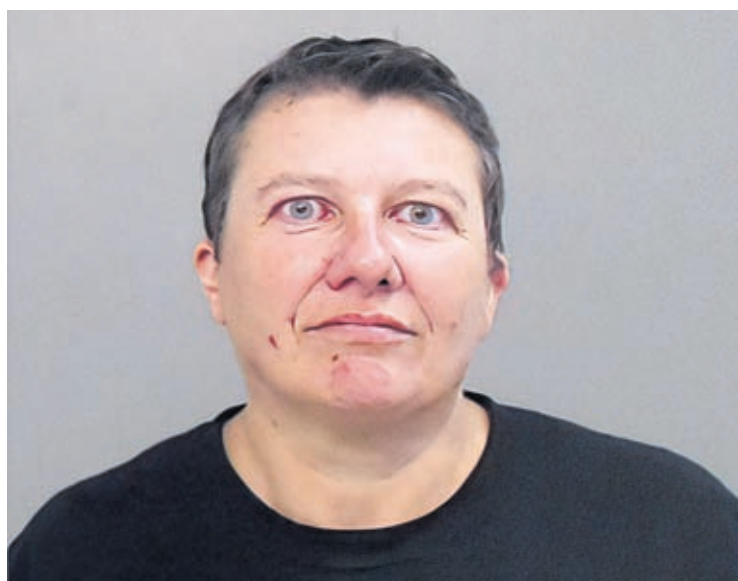
In a winding speech, Ferrier told the judge that she considers herself a "peaceful and genuinely kind person," but gets angry about problems like unfairness, abuses of power and "stupid rules." She spoke about feeling like she had done little to support her values while her children were young, and considered herself to be an "activist" rather than a "terrorist." She expressed little remorse but said, "I want to find peaceful means to achieve my goals," she said.

U.S. District Judge Dabney Friedrich handed down the 262-month sentence outlined in a plea agreement

with prosecutors, which also would expel Ferrier from the country once she is released and require her to be under supervised release for life if she ever returns. The judge noted a "real disconnect" between the Canadian grandmother who has worked toward another degree while behind bars and the crimes Ferrier pleaded guilty to. She pushed back on Ferrier's framing of her actions. "That isn't really activism," she said. "I hope you have no desire to continue on this path."

Prosecutor Michael Friedman said the sentence was an "appropriately harsh punishment" that sends a clear message.

"There is absolutely no place for politically motivated violence in the United States of America," he said. "There is no excuse for threatening public officials or targeting our public servants." □



In this file photo provided by the Hidalgo County (Texas) Sheriff's Office, showing Pascale Ferrier.

Associated Press

Residents flee, airlifts begin as wildfire approaches capital of Canada's Northwest Territories

YELLOWKNIFE, Northwest Territories (AP) —

Residents of the capital of Canada's Northwest Territories began fleeing an approaching wildfire in long convoys Thursday while air evacuations were underway for those who could not leave by road, the latest chapter in Canada's worst fire season on record.

The fire was within 16 kilometers (10 miles) of the northern edge of Yellowknife, and people in the four areas of the city of 20,000 at highest risk were told to leave as soon as possible, Fire Information Officer Mike Westwick said. Residents in other areas should be out by noon Friday, because strong north winds could push the fire toward the highway needed for evacuation, Westwick said.

Although some rain was forecast for the region, first responders were taking no chances.

"I want to be clear that the city is not in immediate danger and there's a safe window for residents to leave the city by road and by air," Shane Thompson, a government minister for the Territories, told a news conference.



People without vehicles lineup to register for a flight to Calgary, Alberta in Yellowknife on Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023.

Associated Press

"Without rain, it is possible it will reach the city outskirts by the weekend."

Authorities said the intensive care unit at a Yellowknife hospital would close within 24 hours as the Northwest Territories health authority starts to reduce its services.

In-patient units from Stanton Territorial Hospital would be moved in the coming days, if required, and most long-term care patients have been transferred to institutions to the south, the Health and So-

cial Services Authority said on its website.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was convening an urgent meeting with ministers and senior officials Thursday to discuss the evacuation.

About 6,800 people in eight other communities have already been forced to evacuate their homes, including the small community of Enterprise, where 80% of the town was destroyed. Officials said everyone made it out alive.

A woman whose family

evacuated the town of Hay River on Sunday told the CBC that their vehicle began melting as they drove through embers, the front window cracked and the vehicle began filling with smoke that made it difficult to see the road ahead.

"I was obviously scared the tire was going to break, our car was going to catch on fire and then it went from just embers to full smoke," Lisa Mundy, who was traveling with her husband and their 6-year-old and 18-month-old children, told

the CBC. She said they called 911 after they drove into the ditch a couple of times.

She told CBC her son kept saying: "I don't want to die, mommy."

Canada has seen a record number of wildfires this year contributing to choking smoke in parts of the U.S. — with more than 5,700 fires burning more than 137,000 square kilometers (53,000 square miles), according to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre. As of Thursday, 1,053 wildfires were burning across the country, more than half of them out of control.

In the Northwest Territories alone, 268 wildfires have already burned more than 21,000 square kilometers (8,100 square miles).

Officials said evacuations from the Northwest Territories have so far been safe and orderly, and that evacuees from the capital who can't find their own accommodations can get support in three centers in the nearby province of Alberta that were expected to open by noon Thursday. The closest of those centers is more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) by road from Yellowknife. □

China's defense minister promises to boost cooperation with Russian ally Belarus

By Yuras Karmanau

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) —

Chinese Defense Minister Li Shangfu on Thursday visited Belarus and said his country would increase military cooperation with Russia's neighbor and ally, where Moscow is deploying tactical nuclear weapons.

Shangfu met with strongman President Alexander Lukashenko in Minsk and said "the purpose of my visit to Belarus is precisely the implementation of important agreements at the level of heads of state and the further strengthening of bilateral military cooperation." Neither side gave de-

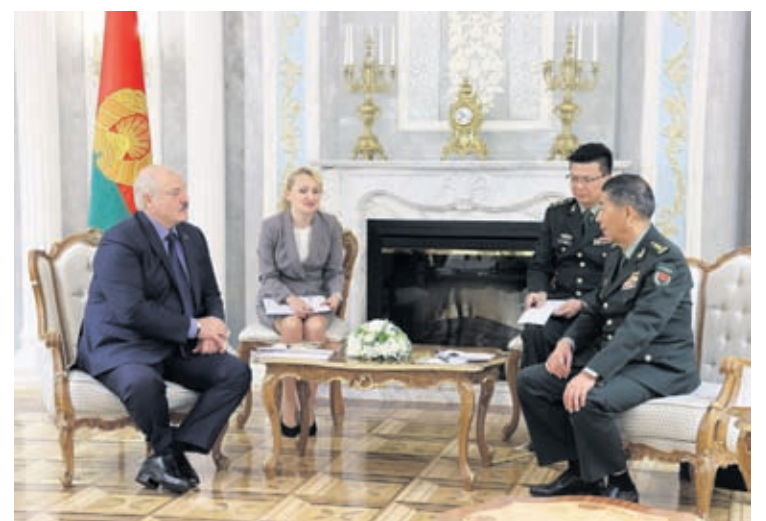
tails of what the cooperation will entail, but the two countries have agreed to hold joint military exercises next year.

Li visited Russia just before going to Belarus.

Russian troops that were deployed in Belarus were part of Russia's invading force in Ukraine and Russian troops and weapons remain there. Belarusian forces have not taken part in the Ukraine war and Lukashenko on Thursday said China's military assistance would not be directed against third countries. Lukashenko has previously said Belarus has taken de-

livery of Russian nuclear weapons and on Thursday he said they could only be used by Belarus if the country was under threat.

"Nuclear weapons, which are in Belarus, will not be used if there is no aggression against us," Lukashenko said, adding that Belarus would not enter into hostilities against Ukraine as long as its border was not violated. China claims to be neutral in the conflict in Ukraine, but accuses the United States and its allies of provoking Russia and maintains strong economic, diplomatic and trade ties with Moscow. □



In this handout photo released by Belarusian Presidential Press Office, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, left, and China's Defense Minister Gen. Li Shangfu, right, speak during their talks in Minsk, Belarus, Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023.

Associated Press

Taliban official says women lose value if their faces are visible to men in public

By **RIAZAT BUTT**
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Women lose value if men can see their uncovered faces in public, a spokesman for a key ministry of Afghanistan's Taliban government said Thursday, adding that religious scholars in the country agree that a woman must keep her face covered when outside the home.

The Taliban, who took over the country in August of 2021, has cited the failure of women to observe the proper way to wear the hijab, or Islamic headscarf, as a reason for barring them from most public spaces, including parks, jobs and university.

Molvi Mohammad Sadiq Akif, the spokesman for the Taliban's Ministry of Vice and Virtue, said in an interview Thursday with The Associated Press that if women's faces are visible in public there is a possibility of fitna, or falling into sin. "It is very bad to see women (without the hijab) in some areas (big cities), and our scholars also agree that women's faces should be hidden," Akif said. "It's not that her face will be harmed or damaged. A woman has her own value



Molvi Mohammad Sadiq Akif, the spokesman for the Taliban's Ministry of Vice and Virtue, speaks during an interview in Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023.

and that value decreases by men looking at her. Allah gives respect to females in hijab and there is value in this."

Dr. Tim Winter, who is the Shaykh Zayed Lecturer in Islamic Studies at the Faculty of Divinity at Cambridge University, said there was no scriptural mandate in Islam for face coverings and the Taliban would struggle to find anything in Islamic scripture that backed their interpretation of hijab rules.

"Their name implies they are not senior religious experts," he told The AP. "The word Taliban means students."

He said the Taliban operate on the basis of textbooks used in village madrassas, religious schools, and that Muslim scholars who have been to Afghanistan during both periods of Taliban rule have been underwhelmed by their level of religious knowledge.

"They have just been so iso-

lated from the wider Muslim community."

The Taliban's restrictions on girls and women have caused global outrage, including from some Muslim-majority countries.

On Wednesday, U.N. special envoy Gordon Brown said the International Criminal Court should prosecute Taliban leaders for crimes against humanity for denying education and employment to Afghan girls and women.

Akif, who is the main spokesman for the Vice and Virtue Ministry, did not answer questions about the bans, including whether any of them could be lifted if there were to be universal adherence to hijab rules. He said there were other departments to deal with these issues.

Akif said the ministry faced no obstacles in its work and that people supported its measures.

"People wanted to implement Sharia (Islamic law) here. Now we're carrying out the implementation of Sharia."

All the decrees are Islamic rulings and the Taliban have added nothing to them, he said. "The orders of Sharia were issued 1,400 years ago and they are still there."

He said that under the current administration men no longer harass or stare at women like they used to do in the time of the previous government.

The Taliban government also says it has destroyed the "evils" of drinking alcohol and bacha bazi, a practice in which wealthy or powerful men exploit boys for entertainment, especially dancing and sexual activities. □

U.N. says militants are occupying a school complex in Lebanon after clashes



Members of the Palestinian Fatah group run to take position during a third day of clashes that erupted with Islamist factions in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh near the southern port city of Sidon, Lebanon on July 31, 2023.

Associated Press

By **ABBY SEWELL**

BEIRUT (AP) — Two weeks after clashes between armed factions in Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp ended, militants are still occupying a United Nations-run school complex, U.N. officials said Thursday.

Dorothee Klaus, director of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, or UNRWA, in Lebanon, said in a statement that the agency has "received alarming reports that armed actors continue to occupy its installations including a school compound" in the Ein el-Hilweh

camp.

The compound provides education to 3,200 out of a total of 6,000 students in the camp, which is home to more than 50,000 people. Earlier this month, Klaus said that the start of the school year might be delayed for students in the camp due to damages to the school facilities.

Klaus said the continued presence of militants is a "grave violation of the inviolability of UN premises under international law, which compromises the neutrality of UNRWA installations and undermines the

safety and security of our staff" and of the refugees living in the camp.

A local Palestinian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said militants from both of the opposing sides had taken over different schools, using them as a "safe haven," and had looted computers and equipment.

The school buildings had been heavily fortified to protect children in the event of clashes, after previous outbreaks of fighting in the camp. □

Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower

in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific

importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment. Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals



San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □



Painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair,



Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to traveling parents to list off some of the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas

Baby Beach is one of Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay,

like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

Mangel Halto in Pos Chikuito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of the Pos Chikito city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for

kids to safely play.

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay



beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close! □



Remember Amuse Bistro?... They're back with a new concept; The Journey

Known for their successful and top-notch establishments Amuse Bistro and Amuse Sunset, Chef Patrick van der Donk and his wife Yvette, who is a certified sommelier, are back with their latest gastronomic adventure that is now to be found at The Journey, beside the famous red windmill (De Olde Moulin) just off Eagle Beach, and will surely bring a brand new concept to take you on a culinary journey you will never forget.

A family of 5, Chef Patrick, his wife Yvette and

their 8 year old triplet sons, started their trajectory about a decade ago, with the renowned and loved Amuse Bistro that saw immense success. Due to a tragic incident in which the restaurant burned down, they gathered all their strength and continued their success at a new location behind the airport, as a brand new beginning named Amuse Sunset until they saw it come to an end. After overcoming unforeseen circumstances like the pandemic, the family is stronger than ever and reading to begin a new adventure and welcome you aboard.



that will take your taste buds on a high class world tour.

You can opt to pair your courses with the sommelier's expertly curated choice of fine wines by the glass or order a bottle from their impressive wine list. With an open kitchen concept, you get to witness the chef bring his inspiration and creations to life. By the end of the night, you are guaranteed to have made a few new friends with whom you've enjoyed a wonderful experience of culinary bliss.

The Journey offers a brand new, elegant and chic concept. Taking the table in 'Chef's Table' to heart, this new interpretation of 'chef's table' features stand-alone tables which seat only 20 patrons, all who must arrive before 7pm. Once you choose to embark on this adventure, the night will start once you arrived at your destination, right next to the mill in Palm Beach, where you will be welcomed with a toast of bubbles (on the house) on the terrace while you wait for the beginning of an unforgettable night. Once the clock hits 7pm, you will be taken into the restaurant for a magical five-course Chef's choice pre-fixed menu

The Journey is open from Mon-Fri and is reservation only, we ask that all guests with a reservation arrive before 7pm. For further questions or information, refer to their website <https://thejourneyaruba.com/> or contact Yvette at +297 565 0535

Make your reservation today and have a 'Bon Voyage!' ☐

★

Congratulations to the Aruba community, especially those working in the industry, as we celebrate

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Renaissance Wind Creek Resort

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize a Goodwill Ambassador and an Emerald Ambassador of Aruba. This lovely couple was respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, and 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassador Mr. Michael Choma from Ontario, Canada
Emerald Ambassador Mrs. Anita Bartolini from Ontario, Canada

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Renaissance Wind Creek Resort bestowed the certificates to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, and as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were:

To spend time with friends
Aruba's friendly and welcoming people
The staff at the resort
Beaches – trade winds – carnival celebration



The variety of restaurants to choose from

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Au-

thority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for always having Aruba dear to their hearts. □



(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company

The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the

lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve

out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short lifespan: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativa & goldminer-anch.com.

Episode 37

Get to know Aruba's small snake

The world's smallest snake species, which adult's average size is just beneath four inches in length and 0.11811 inches in diameter, has been discovered on the Caribbean island of Aruba some years ago. Encountering this species which is as thin as a spaghetti noodle and small enough to rest in the palm of your hand, is becoming very frequent by our curator Anthony Croes, who advocates the goals of Etnia Nativa to share and protect our natural richness.

Leptotyphlops carlae

Our curator has found this snake variety that lives in tiny cavities in the limestone flats, alongside the South and North-Western part of the island bordering the salt lake that ends or starts in the Malmok area. There we find the top layer of the limestone plateau that has deprived of its original vegetation by heavy equipment for housing projects. Turned over and tumbled rocks exposed the underground part of the limestone showing holes and cavities that form the ideal hunting and living biosphere for the small snake.

Limestone hole and small channels and cavities

Etnia Nativa's concern is that the Aruban species is new to science and therefore its importance is unacknowledged but is might be vital in Aruba's ecosystem. Studies based on its genetic most probably differences from other snake species and its unique color pattern and scales. It is also stated that some old museum specimens that had been misidentified by other scientists actually belong to this new species.

Scientists use adults to compare sizes among animals because the sizes of adults do not vary as much as the sizes of juveniles and because juveniles can be harder to find. In addition, scientists seek to measure both males and females of a species to determine its



average size. Using these methods could determine if this species could be unique to Aruba. A snake of this same specie was discovered by Blair Hedges, an evolutionary biologist in 2008 on the island of Barbados and the nearby island of St. Lucia. He named the one discovered on Barbados *Tetracheilostoma carlae* or *Leptotyphlops carlae*, which is the smallest of the more than 3,100 known snake species on the planet.

Aruba's Xerophil vegetation, which grows on the topsoil that covers old island lime stone plateaus.

The smallest animals have young that are proportionately enormous relative to the adults. The hatchlings are one-half the length of an adult, whereas the

hatchlings of the largest snakes are only one-tenth the length of an adult. Tiny snakes produce only one massive egg — relative to the size of the mother — which suggests that natural selection is trying to keep the size of hatchlings above a critical limit in order for them to survive

Biologists think the Barbados snake may be at or near the minimum possible size for snakes, though cannot say for sure that no smaller species exists — several other snake species are nearly as small. While it is possible that a smaller species exists, finding such an animal is unlikely. "Snakes may be prevented by natural selection from becoming too small because, below a certain size, there may be nothing for their young to eat." Like others to which

it is related the snake feeds primarily on earth worms and larvae of ants and ter-

mites. In contrast to larger species — some of which can lay up to 100 eggs in a single clutch — the smallest snakes and the smallest of other types of animals usually lay only one egg or give birth to one offspring. The Aruban variety is no exception to this pattern. It produces a single slender egg that occupies a significant portion of the mother's body. "If a tiny snake were to have two offspring, each egg could occupy only half the space that is devoted to reproduction within its body." □

Source; Island Insight column by Etnia Nativa



The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However,

Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curaçao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business



Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay) at Savaneta

men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Sava-

neta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □

Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.



Alonso de Ojeda

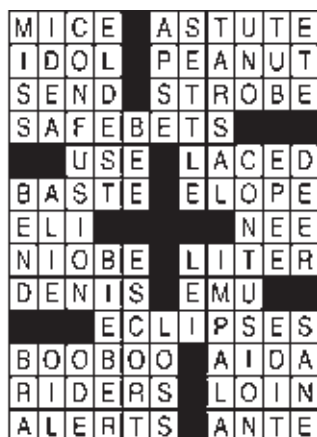


"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint

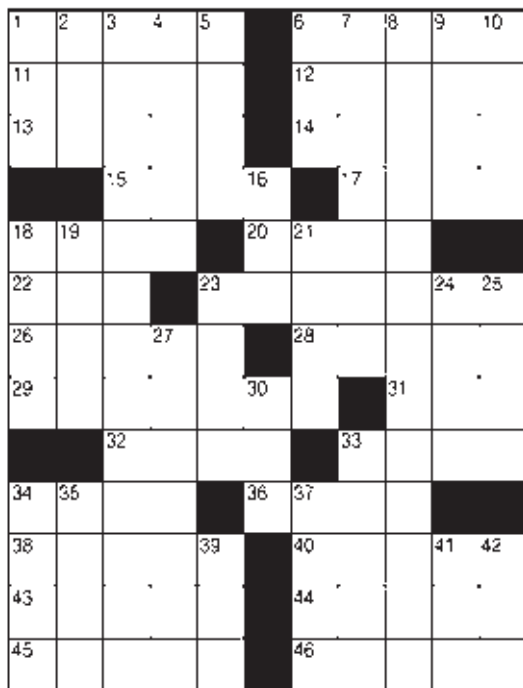
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 45 "Bye Bye 1 Easy wins Bye" band
 - 6 Musical 46 Fit for a speeds king
 - 11 Find charming
 - 12 Poor sport's cry
 - 13 TV, radio, etc.
 - 14 Clinic worker
 - 15 Poet Pound
 - 17 First person
 - 18 Course cry
 - 20 Past due
 - 22 Hold title to
 - 23 Largest of the Balearics
 - 26 Coarse fellow
 - 28 Knight wear
 - 29 Multi-screen theater
 - 31 Laugh sound
 - 32 Flower feature
 - 33 Recipe amts.
 - 34 Calendar reading
 - 36 Blinds piece
 - 38 Dwelling
 - 40 Bumbling
 - 43 Deserve
 - 44 Be of one mind
- DOWN**
- 1 Flock father
 - 2 Praiseful poem
 - 3 Study of the past few centuries
 - 4 Trophy, e.g.
 - 5 Blacken
 - 6 Light metal
 - 7 Earth circler
 - 8 Agatha Christie specialty
 - 9 Tuscany city
 - 10 Article
 - 16 According to
 - 18 Indy 500 winner
 - 19 Man — (famed racehorse)
 - 21 Trojan War hero
 - 23 Lawn burrower
 - 24 Brilliant act
 - 25 Sacred chests
 - 27 Joined a mailing list
 - 30 Print units
 - 33 Lively dance
 - 34 Consign to failure
 - 35 Fivers
 - 37 Tale teller
 - 39 List abbr.
 - 41 Pod unit
 - 42 — Aviv



Yesterday's answer



8-18

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-18

CRYPTOQUOTE

H Z X B M Z I L S D Z J H M Z F S S I ,

P G H R S G Y G I H Z J H Z I P R

R S G I L Z E W . — B M Q J Z L Z

DISUZIP

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I THINK KNOWING WHAT YOU CANNOT DO IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KNOWING WHAT YOU CAN. — LUCILLE BALL

Walmart's hot sellers? Hand mixers and kitchen tools

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Walmart

racked up another strong quarterly sales gain as its low-prices continue to attract budget conscious consumers looking for deals in a tough economic environment.

The nation's largest retailer boosted its annual outlook Thursday after reporting better-than expected second-quarter results sending shares, already up 13% this year, slightly higher at the opening bell.

Walmart is among the first batch of major retailers to report results for the three-month period ended July and is considered a crucial barometer of spending, given its size and the breadth of its customer base. And the performance at the low-cost store compared with many of its peers, where sales are flagging under the weight of inflation, reveals a lot



The entrance to a Walmart store is shown on June 25, 2019 in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

about a massive swath of U.S. consumers right now. A strong job market, rising wages and pockets of easing inflation have juiced spending by Americans. But rising energy prices, the recent resumption of student loan payments put on hold during the pandemic and rising interest rates mean that millions more people are starting to feel increased economic pres-

sure, Walmart CEO Doug McMillon told analysts on Thursday. That has benefited Walmart, which books more than half of its sales each year from its grocery aisle. Walmart also said that in recent quarters it has begun to attract higher-income shoppers, while longtime customers trade down to private-label items that are less expensive than national brands. □

Airlines are adding new routes and making a bold bet on continued strong demand for travel



An American Airlines plane lands at Logan International Airport, Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023, in Boston.

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)

— Building on strong bookings this summer, American Airlines said Thursday it will add three new European destinations next summer and revive another international route that it last flew in 2019.

The announcement comes one day after Delta Air Lines said it will expand service to China later this year.

The news from two of the biggest U.S. carriers underscores the airline industry's confidence that its strong recovery from the pandemic will continue and that planes will remain packed.

American said that next summer it will add flights to Copenhagen, Naples and Nice, France all new destinations for the airline from Philadelphia. □

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24/7

Fresh look at DNA from Oetzi the Iceman traces his roots to present day Turkey

By MADDIE BURAKOFF

AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oetzi the Iceman has a new look. Decades after the famous glacier mummy was discovered in the Italian Alps, scientists have dug back into his DNA to paint a better picture of the ancient hunter.

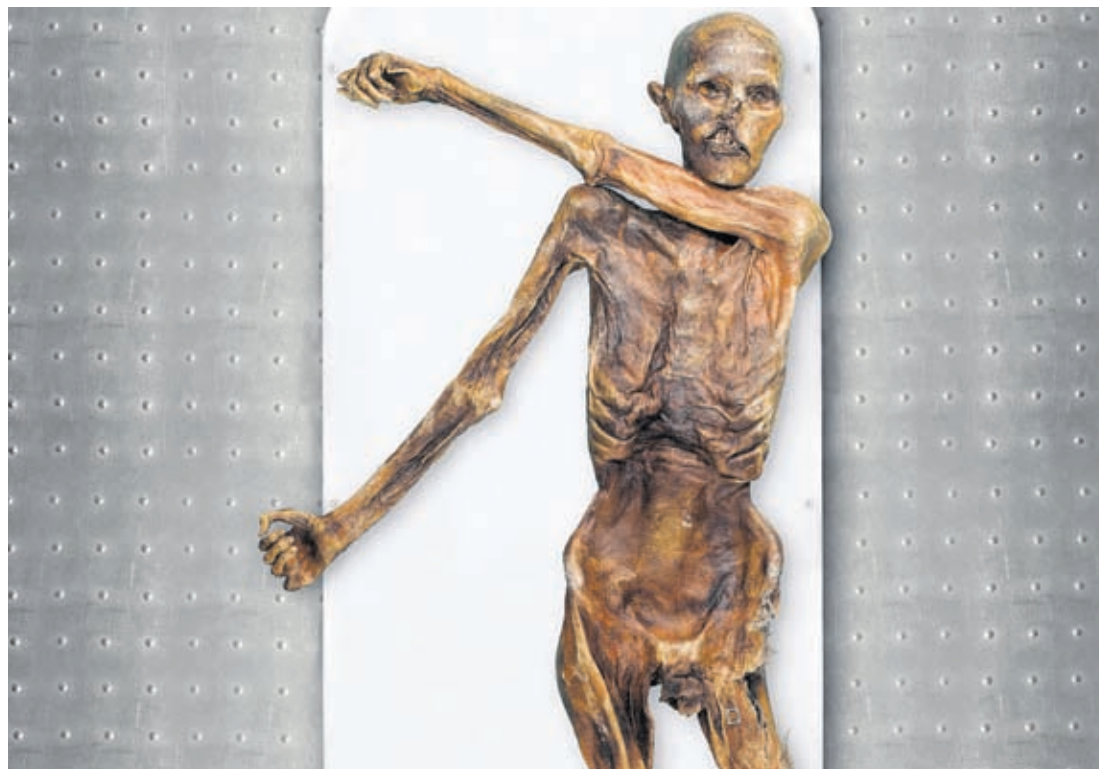
They determined that Oetzi was mostly descended from farmers from present day Turkey, and his head was balding and skin darker than what was initially thought, according to a study published Wednesday in the journal *Cell Genomics*.

Oetzi, who lived more than 5,000 years ago, was frozen into the ice after he was killed by an arrow to the back. His corpse was preserved as a "natural mummy" until 1991, when hikers found him along with some of his clothing and gear including a copper ax, a longbow and a bear-skin hat. Since then, many researchers have worked to uncover more about the mummy, which is displayed at the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology in Bolzano, Italy.

An earlier draft of Oetzi's genome was published in 2012. But ancient DNA research has advanced since then, so scientists decided to take another look at the iceman's genes, explained study author Johannes Krause, a geneticist at Germany's Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. They used DNA extracted from the mummy's hip bone. The updated genome is "providing deeper insights into the history of this mummy," said Andreas Keller of Germany's Saarland University.

Keller worked on the earlier version but was not involved with the latest study.

Based on the new genome, Oetzi's appearance when he died around age 45 was much like the mummy



This photo provided by The South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology shows "Oetzi the Iceman," one of the oldest human glacier mummies.

my looks today: It's dark and doesn't have much hair on it, said study author Albert Zink, head of the Institute for Mummy Studies at Eurac Research in Italy. Scientists previously thought the iceman was lighter-skinned and hairier in life, but that his mummified corpse had changed over time.

His genome also showed an increased chance of obesity and diabetes, the

researchers reported.

And his ancestry suggests that he lived among an isolated population in the Alps, Zink said.

Most Europeans today have a mix of genes from three groups: farmers from Anatolia, hunter-gatherers from the west and herders from the east. But 92% of Oetzi's ancestry was from just the Anatolian farmers, without much mixing from the other groups. □

Associated Press



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Progress toward parity for women on movie screens has stalled

By **JAKE COYLE**

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A new study on inclusion in film shows just how much of a rarity “Barbie” is. For every woman as a speaking character in the most popular films of 2022, there were more than two men, according to report by University of Southern California’s Annenberg Inclusion Initiative.

The USC report, published Thursday, found that 34.6% of speaking parts were female in the top 100 box-office hits of last year. The Annenberg Inclusion Initiative has been annually tracking that and many other metrics since 2007.

And in its first such study in three years, USC researchers found that in many areas, progress toward parity on screen has stalled since the pandemic and in some respects hasn’t changed all that much since 14 years ago. In 2019, 34% of speaking characters were female. In 2008, it was 32.8%. “It is clear that the entertainment industry has little desire or motivation to improve casting processes in a way that creates mean-



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Margot Robbie in a scene from “Barbie.” Associated Press

ingful change for girls and women,” said Stacy L. Smith, founder and director of the Inclusion Initiative, in a statement. “The lack of progress is particularly disappointing following decades of activism and advocacy.”

In analyzing the top films in ticket sales, the report doesn’t include the large amount of films produced for streaming platforms and smaller releases. But it does offer a snapshot of how Hollywood is evolving or not. And it comes on the heels of the enormous success of Greta Gerwig’s “Barbie,”

which has made \$1.2 billion worldwide since opening last month and domestically has become the highest grossing movie ever from a female filmmaker. Last year, one in 10 of the biggest box-office films were directed by women, down from record rates in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Some findings in the study point to progress in inclusivity on screen. There are more female leading or co-leading roles in the top grossing movies than ever. Some 44% of such lead roles were girls or women in 2022, a historical high and

more than double the rate of 2007 (20%).

Speaking characters from underrepresented ethnic groups have also made sizable gains. In 2022, Black, Hispanic, Asian and other non-white minorities accounted for 38.3% of speaking characters, nearly matching the U.S. population percentage of 41%. Most notably, Asian characters have gone from 3.4% of characters in 2007 to 15.9% last year, a movie year that culminated with the best picture win for “Everything Everywhere All at Once.”

But other metrics show that the film industry regressed in some areas of diversity during the pandemic. In 2022, the top grossing movies featured 31% of leads from underrepresented ethnic groups, down from 37% in 2021. Out of those 100 2020 movies, 46 didn’t include a Latino speaking character. “These trends suggest that any improvement for people from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups is limited,” said Smith. “While it is encouraging to see changes for leading characters and for the Asian community, our data on invisibility suggests that there is still much more to be done to ensure that the diversity that exists in reality is portrayed on screen.”

Of the top 100 films in 2022, just 2.1% of speaking characters were LGBTQ+ roughly the same number as a decade ago.

Of the 100 films, 72 didn’t feature a single LGBTQ+ character. Only one was nonbinary.

The number of characters with disabilities has also flatlined. In 2022, 1.9% of speaking characters were depicted with a disability. □

Carlos Vives and Juanes combine forces for ‘Las Mujeres’

By **LESLIE AMBRIZ and MARIA SHERMAN**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Colombian superstars Carlos Vives and Juanes have

officially collaborated for the first time to remake the Carlos Huertas’ vallenato classic, “Las Mujeres.”

Vives originally covered the song in 2009 on the sequel

to his breakthrough album, 1993’s “Clásicos de la Provincia” both gorgeous collections of vallenato standards amped up with the Grammy-award winner’s idiosyncratic pop flair.

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the first installment and Vives’ dedication to modernizing classic Colombian sounds he teamed up with Juanes, the rockstar and fellow countryman who’s known for the same kind of sonic innovation. Their take on “Las Mujeres” evolves the sound and music video for a 2023 audience.

Vives views it as an opportunity to bring three generations of Colombian performers together: Huertas, himself, and Juanes.

“I feel connected to my Colombian ancestors through

music, but a new generation has also arrived. It’s as if our Colombian music stopped being part of a museum to become a part of reality. Contemporary, with new sounds and with new energy,” says Vives. “And that, for me, is what Juanes represents as a part of the new Colombian sound. Juanes arrived on the scene to innovate.”

It goes both ways. Thirty years ago, Juanes saw Vives in concert several times, but recalls one particularly moving performance in Medellín around “Clásicos de la Provincia.”

“I experienced how he was able to mix the element of folklore with rock, with pop, and make it universal while still feeling local. That was like a revelation, it was a great inspiration for me,”

he says.

They attempted to record a cover of “Las Mujeres” together a few years back, but the timing didn’t work out. But it was always going to happen. “One day, when we were making the music video, I said... ‘I had to do this song with you before I die, because this had to happen, and it gives me a lot of joy to finally be able to be on a song with Carlos,’” says Juanes.

The music video for the remake also feels particularly modern, showcasing women of various ages, ethnicities, and professions a celebratory image of the diversity present in Latin America and across the globe. For Vives and Juanes, it doubles as a message of progress for Colombia. □



This combination of photos shows, from left, Juanes with the award for best pop rock album for “Origen” at the 22nd annual Latin Grammy Awards on Nov. 18, 2021, in Las Vegas and Carlos Vives accepting the Legacy Award at the Latin American Music Awards on April 20, 2023, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Sha'Carri is back, Shelly-Ann never left: Women's 100 is the race to watch at track worlds

By **EDDIE PELLIS**

AP National Writer

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)

— When she stamped her name on the long, illustrious list of American sprint champions earlier this summer, Sha'Carri Richardson also set the stakes for the year ahead of her and the rest of the fast pack of 100-meter runners she's going against.

"I'm not back. I'm better," she declared.

Whether that is good enough to win gold medals starting this week at the world championships, then again less than 12 months from now at the Paris Olympics, comes down to whether she can finish in front of defending and five-time world champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and the Jamaican's teammate, Shericka Jackson.

Jackson has the world's best time this year (10.65 seconds), but has lost to Richardson in their only two head-to-head matchups in 2023. Fraser-Pryce is trying to match pole vaulter Sergey Bubka's record for world titles in one individual event. Also in the mix is Marie-Josée Ta Lou of the



Sha'Carri Richardson reacts as she wins her heat in the first round of the women's 200 meters during the U.S. track and field championships in Eugene, Ore., Saturday, July 8, 2023.

Associated Press

Ivory Coast, who joins Richardson and Jackson as the three women to crack 10.8 this year.

Two years after being denied a spot in the Olympics after testing positive for marijuana, Richardson will line up at her first major competition when the 100-meter heats start Sunday. The meet itself begins Saturday with the early round of the men's 100,

where Fred Kerley defends his title and a strong roster of American runners try to repeat last year's podium sweep.

In many ways, this year's meet is a preview of what to expect when many of the same athletes take to the track at the Stade de France in Paris. Missing, however, will be one of the sport's brightest stars. Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone,

who skipped the 400-meter hurdles this season to run in the 400 flat, withdrew from the worlds because of a nagging knee injury. Her target is Paris, though it's still a mystery as to which events she'll run.

This year, a familiar cast threatens the record books: Ryan Crouser in shot put, Mondo Duplantis in pole vault and Faith Kipyegon in both the 1,500 and 5,000

meters have already set world records in 2023. Also, Poland's Pawel Fajdek has won five straight titles in the hammer throw and could join Bubka (and potentially Fraser-Pryce) as six-time champions in their event.

The women's 100 record a 35-year-old mark of 10.49 owned by the late Florence Griffith-Joyner has been thought to be in jeopardy ever since Jamaica's Elaine Thompson ran 10.54 in 2021, about two weeks after winning her second Olympic title.

Griffith-Joyner's husband, coaching great Al Joyner, said he's noticed sprinters studying Flo-Jo's old videos, looking for clues.

"It may click where they execute right and you're going to see somebody go 10.48 or 10.3," Joyner said. "It's going to click for somebody, to the point of saying, 'Oh, wow' because of the level of all the sprinters is out that are running so fast."

Just as the 100 and the 200, which takes place next week will not only be about Richardson, the 23-year-old Richardson is not only about running. □

Former F1 driver Massa claims conspiracy and says he is 'rightful' 2008 champion not Hamilton

By **MAURICIO SAVARESE**

AP Sports Writer

SAO PAULO (AP)

— Former Formula One driver Felipe Massa has accused auto racing's governing body of conspiring to prevent him from winning the 2008 title, and the Brazilian claimed he is the "rightful" champion.

Massa, who was the runner-up to Lewis Hamilton in the 2008 season, made his claim in a letter sent to the FIA in the first step of a legal battle to take place in Britain.

A member of Massa's management team told The Associated Press the letter was also sent to Formula

One Management, alleging the two bodies failed to act after learning that same year that Renault's Nelson Piquet Jr. had deliberately crashed at the Singapore Grand Prix to help then-teammate Fernando Alonso win the race. The crash caused a safety car to come in with Massa in the lead and squandered his advantage.

A calamitous pit stop at the Ferrari boxes soon after cost the Brazilian the race, where he finished 13th.

McLaren's Hamilton finished third in Singapore. The British driver went on to lift the first of his seven titles that year with a dramatic

fifth-place finish at the Brazilian Grand Prix, which was won by Massa.

The difference between the two drivers was one point.

"Simply put, Mr. Massa is the rightful 2008 champion, and F1 and the FIA deliberately ignored the misconduct that stripped him of that title," the letter states. Massa's letter was triggered by an interview of former F1 boss Bernie Ecclestone, who said in March that he was aware of Piquet's deliberate crash in that same year but chose not to investigate it until Hamilton received the season's title at an FIA ceremony. □



Williams driver Felipe Massa, of Brazil, attends a press conference ahead of Sunday's Formula One Brazilian Grand Prix, at the Interlagos racetrack, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Nov. 9, 2017.

Associated Press

The Yankees are in last place with a losing record. What is the world coming to?

By **PAUL NEWBERRY**
AP Sports Columnist

The franchise of Ruth and Gehrig, DiMaggio and Mantle, Jeter and Rivera is a pinstriped mess. The only recognizable thing about this storied club is the "New York" stitched across its uniforms. These are the Damned Yankees.

"We're not showing up," Aaron Judge conceded. "No one's happy about it." Speak for yourself, Mr. Judge. Much of the baseball world is gloating about the misfortune of America's most famous sports team, the one that always receives out-of-proportion media coverage and excessive slots in the national television lineup, the one that has hoarded 27 World Series titles more than twice as many as any other team.

But, here's the thing: It's much more fun to pile on the haughty Yankees when they're piling up pennants. This group is hardly worthy of the jealous vitriol.

New York sits last in the AL East, 14 games in arrears to the up-and-coming Baltimore Orioles. While there is still irrational banter about making a playoff run, it seems downright laughable at this point. A more feasible target is avoiding the team's first losing season since 1992.

How rare is it to find the Yankees under .500 as the calendar speeds toward September?

You must go all the way back to 1995 Sept. 5, to be exact to find the last time the Yankees were saddled with a losing mark (60-61) at least 120 games into the season, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Their amazing run of 30 straight winning seasons, the third-longest in the history of the four major U.S. sports leagues, is in serious jeopardy.

Only the Ruthian-inspired Yankees, who ripped off 39 consecutive winning seasons from 1926-64, and the NHL's Montreal Canadiens, with a string of 32 in a row from 1952-83, have longer



New York Yankees starting pitcher Randy Vasquez wipes his face as he waits for manager Aaron Boone to remove him during the fourth inning of the team's baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

streaks than this New York team.

Yet here we are, New York hobbling along at 60-61 after a lost series in Atlanta, where the gap between the Yankees and baseball's best team couldn't have been more glaring.

The MLB-leading Braves, cruising along at 78-42, swept all three games by a cumulative score of 18-3. If this had been a heavyweight fight, the ref would've stepped in to stop it about midway through Game 1.

Over the final 25 innings of the series, the mighty Yankees scored a grand total of one run.

One.

A lineup featuring Judge and Giancarlo Stanton scraped out just 12 hits all but two of them singles in their final 79 at-bats against the Braves, which translates to a .152 average. New York was held to a single hit in a 5-0 loss Tuesday and managed just four feeble one-baggers in a 2-0 defeat Wednesday.

Anthony Volpe had the only extra-base hits of the entire series for the New Yorkers, including the most meaningless run-scoring triple you'll ever see.

It came with two outs in the ninth inning on Monday, leaving the Yankees with a loss that read 11-3 instead of 11-2.

In those rare times when the Yankees put runners on base, many of them were wiped out by double plays. The Braves turned seven of those. And, in a bone-headed move that epitomized a season lost, Harrison Bader was picked off first with his team trailing by six runs in the series opener. In Atlanta, the Yankees got a first-hand look at the team they want to be and just how far away they are from that goal.

"I've gotta give love to the Braves," acclaimed director Spike Lee, a Yankees fan who was at Truist Park for the beatdown, told Bally Sports South in an interview from his seat.

"They're the best team in

baseball. They're kicking our butts."

Throw in a dismal season by the neighboring New York Mets, and it's truly been a lost year for the national pastime in the Big Apple.

The Yankees have certainly dealt with more than their share of injuries, most notably a toe issue that sidelined Judge, the reigning AL MVP, for nearly two months and is still thwarting him from being at his best. Stanton also missed significant time with a hamstring issue and has struggled mightily since returning, his average (.201) hovering around the Mendoza Line. Then there's Anthony Rizzo, who's out with concussion-related symptoms that won't seem to go away, and 37-year-old Josh Donaldson, who's been hurt most of the season and barely played at all.

A year ago, when the Yankees claimed 99 wins and the AL East title, that quartet combined for 140 homers (including a league-record 62 by Judge) and 346

RBI's. This season, they've totaled 62 dingers and 146 RBI's. The pitching hasn't been much better outside of Gerrit Cole.

Two-time All-Star Luis Severino can't seem to get anyone out in the first inning, leaving him with just two wins and an ERA hovering around 8.00.

Domingo German checked into alcohol rehab and won't pitch again this season.

Embattled manager Aaron Boone, whose job security seems more precarious by the day, insists that the Yankees aren't throwing in the towel on the season.

"A quarter of a season left. We've got to keep working to try to figure it out," he said.

"It doesn't always go the way you script it or hope, but you've got to keep fighting."

Brave words from the skipper, but there's nothing to suggest a stunning turnaround is imminent.

Since the end of June, the Yankees are 15-25 and have just one series victory out of 13 tries, that being a sweep of the lowly Kansas City Royals nearly a month ago.

"The game is still littered with examples of teams going on unlikely runs," Boone insisted.

"I get it. It looks bleak and I don't want to even suggest that we're in a position to even talk about a streak like that. We've got to fix our own house and get going. But there's a lot of season left, too, and we've got to look at it that way."

Now, back to reality.

This season is over for the Yankees, at least as far as making the playoffs for the seventh year in row.

The only goals within reach are extending the streak of winning seasons and building some positive vibes heading into 2024.

And, yes, we're pulling for them to turn things around. Frankly, the Yankees are much more fun to hate when they're winning.

This bunch isn't worth the trouble. □